

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 19, 1845.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVANS made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom the petition of William W. Buchanan was referred, report :*

The petitioner, in his declaration of February 3, 1844, states, that he is a resident of Georgia, and 96 years of age, and poor; that he entered the army in North Carolina, for nine months, in 1775; and the year after, at Richmond, in Virginia, he entered it again, and, with the exception of an interval after the battle at Guilford Court-house, in which he was wounded and lost his horse, he continued in it until the close of the war; that he was in the battles at Long Island, Flatbush, Trenton, White Plains, Sandy Hook, Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, and at Yorktown. He states that, at Philadelphia, some time in 1776, he was commissioned as a lieutenant, and was afterwards appointed adjutant major, or lieutenant major, but that his commissions and discharge, some 10 or 15 years since, were burnt with his house in Alabama.

In his second declaration, of April 10, 1844, he states, that he belonged to the *Virginia continental line*, and was in the *horse troops* or cavalry.

The evidence he adduced tended to support his declaration that he was of the *cavalry* of the *Virginia continental line* of the army.

It appears, from a certificate of the auditor of Virginia, that there was a *soldier* of the name of William Buchanan in the *infantry* of the *Virginia State line*, who, on the 6th of August, 1784, received a certificate of a balance due him as such on the 1st of January, 1782. It is noted that the certificate was delivered to Mr. Broadhead.

The petitioner, in his third declaration, of September 10, 1844, swears that he was attached to the *Virginia State line* of the army, and served about three years in the *infantry*, and received his pay some time in the summer of 1784 through a Mr. Broadhead; and he produces evidence tending also to support this declaration; and, further, that he was called William Buchanan, and that he is the identical William Buchanan of the *Virginia State line*.

It strikes the committee as extraordinary, that the true name of Mr. Buchanan should have been mistaken in a record entry of it; that, when he made his first and second declarations, he should not have known whether he belonged to the *continental* or *State line*, to the *infantry* or *cavalry*; and, still further, when he was a *commissioned officer*, that he should have

been entered as a *soldier*. It is quite clear, according to the petitioner's account of the matter, that at Guilford Court-house, March 15, 1781, he was in the *cavalry*, for his *horse* was there shot under him; and it is for this very time William Buchanan, of Virginia, received his pay as a soldier of *infantry*.

The evidence is wholly parole. If the claim be well founded, the rolls of the army, or the records of the State or of the United States, which ever conferred the commission, or commissions, would show it.

The petitioner excuses his delay in making his application for a pension by saying that, "having been heretofore enabled to procure his daily bread by his own hands, he was unwilling to become a pensioner on the bounty of his Government." As it has never been deemed dishonorable to take a pension for revolutionary services, an expression of this lofty sentiment of patriotism or pride is not very satisfactory, however common: Wherefore,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition of William W. Buchanan ought not to be granted.

The petitioner, in his declaration of February 8, 1844, states, that he is a resident of Georgia, and 36 years of age, and poor; that he entered the army in North Carolina for nine months, in 1775; and the year after, at Richmond, in Virginia, he entered it again, and, with the exception of an interval after the battle at Guilford Court-house, in which he was wounded and lost his horse, he continued in it until the close of the war; that he was in the battles at Long Island, Flatbush, Trenton, White Plains, Sandy Hook, Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, and at Yorktown. He states that, at Philadelphia, some time in 1776, he was commissioned as a lieutenant, and was afterwards appointed adjutant major, or lieutenant major, but that his commissions and discharge, some 10 or 15 years since, were burnt with his horse in Alabama.

In his second declaration, of April 10, 1844, he states, that he belonged to the Virginia continental line, and was in the horse troops or cavalry. The evidence he adduced tended to support his declaration that he was of the cavalry of the Virginia continental line of the army.

It appears from a certificate of the auditor of Virginia, that there was a soldier of the name of William Buchanan in the infantry of the Virginia State line, who, on the 6th of August, 1784, received a certificate of a balance due him as such on the 1st of January, 1783. It is noted that the certificate was delivered to Mr. Broadhead.

The petitioner, in his third declaration, of September 10, 1844, swears that he was attached to the Virginia State line of the army, and served about three years in the infantry, and received his pay some time in the summer of 1784 through a Mr. Broadhead; and he produces evidence tending also to support this declaration; and further, that he was called William Buchanan, and that he is the identical William Buchanan of the Virginia State line.

It strikes the committee as extraordinary, that the true name of Mr. Buchanan should have been mistaken in a record entry of it; that, when he made his first and second declarations, he should not have known whether he belonged to the continental or State line, to the infantry or cavalry; and, still further, when he was a commissioned officer, that he should have